
ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

NEWS RELEASE



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Sitka Area Office
304 Lake St. Room 103
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Date: April 10, 2012
Time: 3:30 p.m.

2012 SOUTHERN SOUTHEAST INSIDE SUBDISTRICT SABLEFISH FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT

The 2012 Southern Southeast Inside (SSEI) Subdistrict sablefish commercial annual harvest objective (AHO) is 583,280 round pounds, which is unchanged from the 2011 AHO. The SSEI sablefish longline fishery will open at 8:00 a.m., Friday, June 1 and close at 12:00 noon, Wednesday, August 15, 2012. The SSEI sablefish pot gear fishery will open at 8:00 a.m., Saturday, September 1 and close at 12:00 noon, Thursday, November 15, 2012.

Equal quota share (EQS) for each of the 23 permit holders will be 25,360 round pounds. This EQS represents an increase from the prior year due to the removal of two interim permits from the fishery since 2011. SSEI permit holders were mailed a certified letter detailing legal overages or underages incurred during the 2011 fishery. Each permit holder's 2012 EQS will be adjusted based on any legal overages or underages and a personal quota share (PQS) will be assigned.

Registration and Logbook Requirements

Fishermen are reminded they must register prior to fishing and they are required to keep a logbook during the fishery. Registration forms and logbooks are available at Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) offices in Southeast Alaska beginning May 1, 2012. Completed logbook pages must be attached to the ADF&G copy of the fish ticket at the time of delivery. Confidential ADF&G envelopes for logbook pages may be requested when registering.

When registering for the fishery, fishermen will be given a PQS tracking form stating their 2012 PQS. This form is to be used to record the total round landed weight of each delivery. Each permit holder must, upon request, provide the buyer with the total round weight of sablefish the permit holder has landed to date. ADF&G also requests that the completed PQS tracking form is submitted with the final fish ticket of the season for that permit.

Logbooks must include, by set, the date and time gear is set and retrieved, specific location of harvest by latitude and longitude for start and ending positions, hook spacing, amount of gear (number of hooks or pots) used, depth of set, estimated weight of the target species, and the estimated weight of bycatch by species. Indicate for each set if the target species was sablefish or halibut and if there was any lost gear.

Tagged Sablefish

Fishermen are requested to watch for tagged sablefish. Please record tag number(s) in the logbook next to the appropriate set and attach tag(s) directly in the log next to the specific set information. All tags returned will receive a reward. Tag rewards include a hat and entry into an annual drawing for one \$1,000, two \$500, and three \$250 cash rewards. To qualify for entry in the annual drawing, ADF&G requires the following information: the physical tag, set location (latitude and longitude), date of capture of fish, and the name and address of the person recovering the tag.

Fish Ticket Requirements

Landed weights must be recorded on an ADF&G fish ticket at the time of delivery. If a fisherman delivers fish in the round, the total round weight delivered must be recorded on the fish ticket. If a fisherman delivers dressed fish, the fish ticket must include the total landed dressed weight as well as the round weight equivalent, determined by using the standard 0.63 conversion rate. There is a 2% allowance for ice and slime. A fish ticket with landed weight must be completed prior to the resumption of fishing and each permit holder must have onboard the registered copies of all SSEI fish tickets from the current season as well as their updated PQS tracking form. Fishermen are reminded that a completed fish ticket must be submitted to ADF&G before fish are transported out of Alaska.

Sablefish Possession and Landing Requirements

The holder of a CFEC permit or interim use permit for sablefish may not retain more sablefish in the directed fishery than the annual amount of sablefish EQS specified by ADF&G [5 AAC 28.170 (g)]. However if a permit holder's harvest exceeds the permit holder's EQS for that year, by not more than five percent, ADF&G shall reduce the permit holder's EQS for the following year by the amount of the overage. If a permit holder's harvest exceeds the permit holder's equal quota share by more than five percent, the proceeds from the sale of the overage in excess of five percent shall be surrendered to the state and the permit holder may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.723. A permit holder may not knowingly exceed a quota share or exceed the equal quota share in an amount greater than five percent as such actions may be prosecuted under AS 16.05.722 or AS 16.05.723.

If a permit holder's harvest is less than the permit holder's EQS for that year, ADF&G shall increase the permit holder's EQS only for the following year by the amount of the underage that does not exceed five percent of the EQS [5 AAC 28.170 (k)].

For the 2012 SSEI sablefish fishery, five percent of the annual EQS equals 1,268 round pounds.

Bycatch

Bycatch provisions for the SSEI sablefish fishery are listed in the following table. The percentage indicates the amount that may be sold on an SSEI sablefish permit and is based on round weight of sablefish and round weight of bycatch species or species group.

Species	Longline fishery	Pot fishery
Demersal Shelf Rockfish (DSR)	1%	0%
Shortraker & roughey rockfish	7% in aggregate	0%
Other rockfish & thornyheads	15% in aggregate	0%
Lingcod	0%	0%
Pacific Cod	20%	20%
Spiny dogfish	35%	20%
Other groundfish	20% in aggregate	20% in aggregate

A Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission (CFEC) permit holder fishing for groundfish or halibut in SSEI must retain, weigh, and report all rockfish taken. Full retention regulations do not apply to shortspine thornyheads (idiots). Directed fishing for rockfish is closed in inside waters, therefore rockfish in excess of allowable bycatch limits shall be reported as bycatch overage on the fish ticket. Any proceeds from the sale of excess rockfish shall be surrendered to the state.

Pacific cod taken in excess of bycatch limits may be sold on a CFEC miscellaneous finfish permit (M card) in areas open to directed fishing for Pacific cod.

Prohibitions

A vessel or a person on board a vessel from which commercial, subsistence, or personal use longline fishing gear was used to take fish in the SSEI area during the 72-hour period immediately before, or from which that gear will be used during the 24-hour period immediately after an open sablefish fishing period in that area, may not participate in the taking of sablefish in SSEI during that open sablefish fishing period [5AAC 28.180(a)]. The operator of a fishing vessel may not take sablefish in SSEI while sablefish from another area onboard the vessel. Also, the operator of a vessel taking sablefish in SSEI shall unload and complete a fish ticket before taking sablefish in another area [5AAC 28.170 (a) and (b)].

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